

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Shelby Plooster
1st V.P. Burles Johnson
2nd V.P. Tommy Rhoden
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt



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Volume 24, Number 9

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September, 2024

Our next meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2024, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Collecting the U.S. coins of 1919, 105 years ago

Club Meeting Calendar for 2024

Jan. 18	May 16	Sep. 19
Feb. 15	June 20	Oct. 17
Mar. 21	July 18	Nov. 21
Apr. 18	Aug. 15	Dec. 19

Grading Draped Bust Half-Cents

Try magnifying the page to at least 200% and
Look at the hair on the obverse and leaves on the reverse.



An 1800 Draped Bust half cent, C-1, R2



An 1802/1 Draped Bust half cent, C2, R4



An 1804 Draped Bust half cent, C4, R1

The grade of the 1800 is VF-30

The grade of the 1802/1 is VG-08 &

The grade of the 1804 is XF-40

For collectors, the early half cents are not as scarce
as the large cents and can be acquired at reasonable prices in the
various grades shown above.

Collecting the U.S. Coins of 1919

By Arno Safran



The obverses of the Uncirculated U.S. coins of 1919
From left to right, atop, the silver Walking Liberty half-dollar,
Standing Liberty quarter and Mercury dime over the
Native American nickel and Lincoln copper cent

By 1919, the Morgan dollar denomination was already
long gone along with the four gold denominations, the latter; the
result of WW I somewhat, so a collector
interested in acquiring an uncirculated
U.S. set of coins from 1919 has only five
denominations to consider. The foregoing
said that is not so easy to get especially in
the grades shown without saving up for
them. With the exception of the half-
dollar denomination, the Philadelphia
Mint struck the most coins of the three
mints then in operation.



Woodrow Wilson

President Woodrow Wilson was in his second term as
our nation's 18th president but his glory days were over. How
did this come to happen after 1918, when Wilson was heralded
all over the world for allowing the United States to enter the war
in 1917 as the main reason that the Germans and to a lesser
extent, the Italians were finally defeated in WW I after four
miserable years of battle with hundreds of thousands of deaths.

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Collecting the U.S. Coins of 1919

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



The reverses of the Uncirculated U.S. coins of 1919
From left to right, atop, the silver Walking Liberty half-dollar, Standing Liberty quarter and Mercury dime over the Buffalo nickel and Lincoln copper cent

Shortly after WWI ended the leaders of the Victorious nations which included mostly Great Britain, France, the Baltic nations and the new Soviet Union discussed how to deal with Germany's defeat. Wilson had offered a well planned 14 points which at first appeared promising but soon receive some opposition by the European powers. The League of Nations' which was approved almost unanimsly began to be discussed in the U.S. Congress with many politicians opposed to it because they didn't want other nations to meddle in U.S. affairs, and despite moderates attempts at getting Wilson to compromise, he remained steadfast in his positions with the result that Congress refused to become a part of the League of Nations. Shortly thereafter, Wilson suffered a stroke which virtually decapitated his ability to lead with the result that his second wife, Edith Bolling Wilson apparently handled many of the president's duties thereafter.



In 1918, a terrible Flu broke out that affected millions throughout the world.



An 1919 Lincoln wreath cent graded MS-65 Red
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or up to 150% to view details.]

In 1919, the mintage for the Philadelphia Mint issue of the Lincoln Cent was huge, a record breaking 392,021,000 pieces compared with 139,760,000 at the San Francisco Mint with just 57,154,000 at the Denver Mint. The author acquired the 1919-P cent at the South Carolina Numismatic Association Convention back in October, 2013. It cost him \$215. Today it retails for \$275. The 1919-P cent is more common than either the 1919-S or 1919-D and since the author simply wanted to complete an uncirculated eye appealing year set at the lowest costs possible he decided to take the easiest way out because the two branch-mint coins were far more expensive.



A 1919 Native American nickel graded MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or up to 150% to view details.]

In 1919, the Native American/Buffalo nickel was struck at all three mints with the Philadelphia Mint striking 60,868,000 nickels compared with just 8,006,000 produced at Denver and just 7,521,000 coined at San Francisco but as we now see, the population in the eastern states was still overwhelmingly larger than the central or far-western states during this period. The Philadelphia Mint nickels also tended to be struck more sharply than the San Francisco pieces. As a result the 1919-P nickel is priced far lower than the two branch mints throughout the grading spectrum. Today a 1919-P nickel certified **MS-64** retails for **\$350** with most recent nickels in this grade selling from **\$228 to \$312** at auctions. **The 1919-D nickel** certified **MS-64** on the other hand retails for **\$2,750** with recent auctions sales ranging from a low of **\$1,700** to a high of **\$3,683**. The 1919-S nickel is scarcer still with a retail price of **\$3,600** and recent auction sales ranging from a low of **\$1,680** to **\$3,840**. Those graded **MS-65** are few and far between and are among the scarcest dates of the entire series, so possessing a **MS-64** Philadelphia Mint issue was the only outlet of this collector.

The coin was designed by James Earle Fraser and struck from 1913 thru 1938.



A 1919 Mercury dime graded MS-64 Full Bands on reverse
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or up to 150% to view details.]

While this photo image of the 1919 Mercury dime shown above is not as sharp as the author would have liked to appear, the bands on the reverse are full which raises the value of the already uncirculated **MS-64** coin quite a bit, from **\$250** the author paid at the 2014 FUN show to **\$425** today with recent auction prices selling at **\$350** and **\$360** for a coin similarly graded. In 1919, the dime was in its fourth year of Adolph Weinman's magnificent design type which replaced the Barber dime in 1916. The woman who posed for Weinman was Elsie Stevens, the wife of Wallace Stevens, a successful lawyer by day and poet by night in later life. Weinman was actually the landlord of the apartment house that the Stevens were renting and asked Elsie Stevens to be his model. Like a number of early 20th century US coin designs, the sharpness of strike had a way of enlarging a coin's later value and with the *Mercury* dime, it was the **full torch bands** that appeared on the center of the **reverse** that when fully struck were somewhat scarcer than those that are not. Once again, the two Branch mints prices are far more expensive than the Philadelphia issue.

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Collecting the U.S. Coins of 1919

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



A 1919 Standing Liberty quarter graded MS-64 by ANNEX
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or up to 150% to view details.]

One of the more beautiful coins of the early twentieth century is the Standing Liberty quarter. It was engraved by **Herman MacNeil** and first released in the waning days of 1916 replacing the 1916 Barber quarter in December while being a great rarity as well since only 52,000 specimens were produced.

In 1919, however, the Standing Liberty quarter was in **its fourth consecutive year** and being regularly struck at all three mints with the Philadelphia Mint producing 11,324,000, the Denver Mint, just 1,944,000 and the San Francisco Mt only 1,836,000. As with the nickels and dimes, the branch mint issues were far lower and too expensive for middle class collectors to afford while the Philadelphia Mint issues were reasonably priced. The MS-64 example shown above cost the author only \$315 as an internet order from a major U.S. coin dealer but that was back in Dec. 2015. Today it retails for \$500.00 in the grade shown with one selling for as much as \$750 at a Stacks-Bowers auction held back in June, 2022 and another more recently for \$500 in December the same year.



A 1919 Walking Liberty half-dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or up to 150% to view details.]

The early Walking Liberty Half dollars circulated far more heavily than those struck from 1934 on and especially those produced from 1941 through 1947, the end of its run. In 1919, the Philadelphia Mint actually struck the lowest number of Walking Liberty half-dollars with just 962,000 produced. The San Francisco Mint coined 1,552,000 and the Denver Mint, slightly more with 1,165,009 specimens and yet, when it comes to the uncirculated grades, the two branch mints were still the most costly in comparison to the 1919-P. The foregoing said the coin shown directly above certified MS-63 did not come cheap to the author. At the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association's annual coin convention held in Dalton, GA in August, 2013, he acquired the example shown above for \$3,500. His wife did not scold him. Today it retails in the same grade for \$4,750 according to the **2025 Red Book**, an enormous increase from what the author paid in 2013. As for the two Branch Mints, both are priced in the five figures; each well over \$10,000.



The Complete Uncirculated set of U.S. coinage struck in 1919
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or up to 150% to view details.]

The Importance of a Monthly Newsletter

With this edition of the Augusta Coin Club Newsletter, we are nearing the end of the 24th year of consecutive publication which began in July, 2001. Each edition was filled with stories of various obsolete coins. In the early years, two members--no longer with us--wrote articles along with the editor. They not only produced these each month but also gave PowerPoint programs four times a year somewhat similar to the duet of member Charles White and the newsletter editor today.

During the first decade, the newsletter won three awards from the American Numismatic Association because a highly respected club member, Jim Barry--who was living in Aiken at the time--sent in the newsletter to the ANA each year before the April, deadline. No one has taken Jim's place with the result that the smaller Stephen James CSRA Coin Club has won nine awards since Steve Kuhl, a former club president sends the Stephen James CSRA Newsletter to the ANA each year. When the newsletter editor joined the club in 2001 there was just 27 members and a paper reminder when the club would meet the next month. There were also no local club coin shows although there had been a few before the author arrived. After a series of discussions regarding how the club could put on a good coin show, David Chism volunteered and the first show was held in the spring of 2003. The author recalls acquiring a beautiful 1884 Liberty Seated dime graded **MS-62 by NGC**.



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The Importance of a Monthly Newsletter

(Continued from the previous page)

David Chism continued to run our shows twice a year at different venues long before the Columbia County Expo opened in 2014 and retired in 2021 after 18 years to retire although he still attends our monthly meetings. Former Club President Steve Nix took over as Bourse Chairman in November, 2021. Both men have done a tremendous job running our two shows held each year.



Former Club President and Current Show Chairman Steve Nix trotting down the aisle of one of our successful shows



Current Club President Shelby Plooster conducting a Young Numismatist Program at one of our Shows

During the early years the club had several members of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken, SC have presented PowerPoint programs at our meetings and two or three of our members have done the same in Aiken.

The monthly newsletter has displayed numerous U.S. coin types and coin sets from the past going back to 1792 and while no one can collecting every year set due to rarities beyond one's budget, the club member can still view them by reading the monthly newsletter. The editor attempted to obtain the exact sizes of each coin when possible but sometimes this couldn't be done efficiently. When the gold coins were added, they were usually placed beneath the more traditional copper and silver denominations or separately. Finally, the editor wishes to thank John & Elaine Attaway for the club minutes all these years.

MINUTES OF the August 15 2024 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 41 members present.

The Secretary's Report:

The July 18, 2024 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email by Stacey Plooster. We have \$17,099.57 deposited in the checking account.

The Prize Winners:

Olin Cannon and Jack Goldenberg each won a 1 oz. Silver Eagle. Winner of the 50/50 raffle for \$50.00 was Glenn Leaphart.

Our Fall Coin Show Nov. 15th (Friday) and Nov. 16th (Saturday) 2024, Steve Nix - Bourse Chairman.

The Fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Walmart at Exit 190. The dealers can set up on Thursday night from 4 pm to 8 pm. Mr. Sammy Lucky provided our post cards that we will be mailed. Thank you Mr. Lucky! Please sign up to help manage the front desk.

Show and Tells:

Jack Goldenberg displayed Maundy sets from England dated 1687 of King James II. Burles Johnson displayed a 50th Anniversary .999 silver Coin token.

The Program

Our program by Arno Safran was postponed due to technical difficulties. 2023 Augusta Coin Club Medallion:

The winning choice of our 2023 Augusta Medallion was the Old First Baptist Church (1902) struck in copper, antique bronze and silver wash and priced at \$15.00 each. The medallion has been available for several months now. We encourage the membership to buy the medallions in order to support the club. We will review the need for future medallions later.

MINUTES OF the August 15 2024 MEETING
(Continued from the previous page)

Old Business:

Perfect attendance for the 2024 has been reinstated. What that implies is those members who attn every meeting within a given year don't have to pay the dues the following year.

2025 Red books are on sale at \$10.00 for wire bound and copies and \$12.00 for hard bound copies. AS of this date, there is only one left.

Anyone that gives a program will be eligible for a drawing for a one-tenth gold coin.

Please leave a tip for drinks at the Sunrise Grill. Program presenters will qualify for a drawing for a one-tenth Gold Eagle in December.

New Business:

Charles White's September program will be on GSA sales which sold Carson City and other Morgan and Peace dollars to the public.

Recent Coin Shows:

Atlanta Monthly Show September 7, 2024
Marietta, Ga

Raleigh Coin Show September 7, 8
2024 Raleigh, NC. Coin Auction

The Monthly Club Auction:

Burles Johnson ran the auction (10 lots). Shelby Plooster and Everett Price delivered the goods as the auction was carried on; therefore, speeding up the auction.

Bids recorder was Tommy Rhoden.

Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway

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